



Afternoon Alert - Monday, January 23, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NTV and TBS led with reports on the first trial hearing for former actress Saya Takagi held this morning, during which she said that marijuana found in the house that she shared with two men did not belong to her. NHK and TV Asahi gave top play to heavy snowfall in western Japan today. Fuji TV reported on a press conference held this morning by Ozeki Kisenosato, who is about to become the first Japanese sumo wrestler to be promoted to yokozuna in 19 years.

INTERNATIONAL

PM Abe to call for President Trump's understanding on TPP

Jiji Press reported that Prime Minister Abe said during Diet questioning this afternoon that he would like to meet President Trump as soon as possible and "further strengthen the unbreakable bonds of the bilateral alliance." Concerning the TPP, which the Trump administration has officially announced that the U.S. will withdraw from, the premier reportedly said: "I would like to call for his understanding of its strategic and economic significance."

Suga comments on launch of Trump administration

NHK reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga said at a press conference this morning that the GOJ will closely monitor how the Trump administration's policies will affect Japanese companies and expressed hope to further enhance the economic relationship between the two nations. Suga also expressed hope to realize a summit between Prime Minister Abe and President Trump at an early date in order to further strengthen the bilateral alliance.

- [Column: Can 'Mad Dog' Mattis save US's alliances?](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe seeks Trump's assurances on Chinese-claimed islands](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Analysis: Trump likely to value alliance with Japan, get tough on China](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Trump's first 100 days a crucible for 'America first'](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan seeks to strengthen alliance with Trump administration](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Parties concerned over 'America first'](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: How will President Trump interact with the world?](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Trump must not forget the spirit of the founding fathers](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Analysis: Trump's scrapping of TPP complicates Japan's trade, growth options](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Trump's inauguration speech ignores U.S. values, reality / 'America first' to impair stability, prosperity](#) (The Japan News)
- [The dangers of change done Trump's way](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Tycoon Trump's business-style diplomacy raises eyebrows](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [A-bomb survivor urges Trump to ponder from all-humanity perspective](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Vice Pres. Pence seen as "bright spot" in Trump administration](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Toyota president 'thankful' that Pence is Trump's vice president](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: U.S. tradition obliges Trump to uphold the order in free society](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Expert eye on Trump administration: Lower support suggests Trump will become weak president](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan biz leaders emphasize importance of Japan-U.S. relations](#) (Jiji Press)

- [Trump currency confusion gives Tokyo headache](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Marchers in Tokyo brave chilly weather to bid farewell to Obama](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan to boost aid to World Bank arm](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Strengthen Japan Coast Guard to deal with China's intrusions](#) (The Japan News)
- [Foxconn considers \\$7bn US display facility with Apple](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's banks mull deploying investment funds to aid Toshiba](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Canon to consider investing in Toshiba's chip business](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Toshiba must clarify how it suffered staggering losses](#) (The Mainichi)

SECURITY

[Onaga mulls "cancelling" landfill permit at Henoko in March](#)

Saturday's Okinawa Times wrote that it learned from several sources connected to the Okinawa prefectural government on Friday that Governor Onaga is considering the idea of "cancelling" the prefecture's permission for landfill work at Henoko as early as March based on the argument that the GOJ has violated about ten items that were noted in the 2013 permission. Although Onaga tried to "rescind" his predecessor's landfill permit before, he withdrew the rescindment last year in response to the Supreme Court judgment that it was illegal. The paper wrote that there is a view within the prefectural government that it is necessary for the prefecture to cancel the permit by the end of March to prevent bank protection work from being carried out at the FRF construction site, because administrative measures such as rejecting the GOJ's request for permission for crushing rock reefs will only be effective in temporarily suspending the construction work since the central government may take such countermeasures as legal actions or a special measures law against them. The existing landfill permit is set to expire in March.

- [Okinawa Deputy Gov. in charge of U.S. base negotiations resigns](#) (Kyodo News)

OPINION POLLS

- [56% say that Japan-U.S. relationship "will worsen," Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 22](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 21](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 20](#) (Nikkei)
- [Strength of political parties and political groups in Diet](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Diet debate should respond to changing times](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Education ministry's "amakudari" practice](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

- [Tepco, Chubu Electric preparing to fully integrate thermal power generation businesses](#) (Sankei)
- [Japanese pharmaceuticals manufacturers busy concluding M&As](#) (Asahi)
- [Crane falls on Takahama plant building housing spent nuclear fuel](#) (Kyodo News)
- [How long will 'strong-dollar breeze' blow for BOJ?](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan may widen service jobs for foreigners in special zones](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't to submit new legislation for promoting private sector use of medical big data](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan wants to export nursing care services](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Ensure departure from deflation through continued pay increases](#) (The Japan News)

SCIENCE

- [Japan's manufacturers look to overachieve on emissions cuts](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

EDUCATION

- [Will Trump shock even impact number of Japanese studying in U.S.?](#) (Asahi Evening edition)

SOCIETY

- [Japan looks to make women wait till 18 for marriage](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

TV PROGRAMS

Mega Crisis – Part 4: Fires caused by earthquakes

Sunday evening's "NHK Special" reported that while a strong earthquake is projected to hit the Nankai Trough or the Tokyo metropolitan area sometime in the near future, the biggest fear is that major fires would be caused by such an earthquake. Estimates show that the number of deaths caused by an earthquake in the Tokyo metropolitan area would be as many as 23,000, and 70% of the victims would die in fires. The latest study found that the reason such a large number of people would be killed by fires is that people living in densely populated cities would be unable to evacuate quickly enough due to narrow streets and streets blocked by collapsed buildings. In addition, an earthquake hitting the Nankai Trough could trigger a tsunami that would destroy the industrial complex along the coast of the Osaka gulf, transferring flammable materials to inland areas and causing major fires. Such fires would probably be too big to extinguish immediately and would spread to urban areas. Researchers are reportedly studying ways to prevent major fires triggered by earthquakes, and firefighters are trying to improve their ability to extinguish such fires.

Ruling, opposition lawmakers discuss Trump administration, issues for Diet deliberations

During NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show, secretaries general of the ruling and opposition parties expressed their views about the future of U.S.-Japan relations under the Trump administration. The LDP's Nikai and Komeito Party's Inoue stressed the need for arranging an early summit meeting between President Trump and Prime Minister Abe to deepen the relationship of trust between the two nations. While acknowledging that U.S.-Japan relations are the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy, the Democratic Party's Noda and several other opposition discussants expressed concern over President Trump's "America First" policy. The Japanese Communist Party's Koike expressed concern that the U.S. under the Trump administration may intensify its demand for Japan's defense spending and insisted that Japan should stop "blindly following the U.S."

The panelists also discussed their party's positions on legislation on such key issues to be deliberated in the Diet session convened last week, including work-style reform, the criminalization of conspiracy to commit terrorism, the Emperor's possible abdication, and constitutional reform.

